

CITIZENS FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, INC.

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Contributions Are Tax Deductible

March 1, 1985

Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
1255 Delresto Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Mary:

We are really reaping the fruits of our long endeavors at the state level. Unfortunately, Citizens for the Treatment of High Blood Pressure doesn't get any of this money, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we, and we alone, are responsible for it.

We started our efforts in New Jersey in 1980. It took about two years to build up a solid New Jersey Citizens Committee on High Blood Pressure composed of approximately 40 distinguished citizens, including 16 doctors. The New Jersey Legislature passed appropriations for hypertension in both the 1983 and 1984 sessions, but in both cases the appropriations were vetoed by Governor Kean.

This did not deter the New Jersey Coalition or us. We came back again and this year we received the first appropriation of \$100,000 in state funds.

New Jersey gets approximately \$700,000 in high blood pressure monies from the Federal Government, so the total of both federal and state monies is now \$800,000. Despite all of this, we are having the usual difficulty in getting monies from the pharmaceutical houses in New Jersey. Let us take Hoffman La-Roche as an example. We got \$30,000 from them in the first two years we were in existence, then no money for five years (1977 through 1981). In 1982 and 1983 we got \$3,500 and in 1984 we got \$3,000. We received no money from them for 1985 in response to the request signed by Dr. DeBakey on October 25, 1984.


In response to your question in our telephone conversation yesterday, I am sending you a copy of the actual monies received by Citizens since Dr. DeBakey's letter. You will note that the Merck grant is 80 percent of our total funding. This is really very dangerous and, with the drop of \$300,000 a year from SmithKline, we don't know how we can retain our state activities which have proven so productive over the years. On a side issue, I send you a copy of Remarks by Congressman Gerry Sikorski in support of Waxman's House Joint Resolution to restore in 1985 the \$277 million in cuts in NIH appropriations. You remember that you contributed \$1,000 to Sikorski's campaign at the suggestion of Henry Waxman. Sikorski is one of our best friends on the Waxman Committee.

For The Prevention of Heart Disease, Stroke and Kidney Failure

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Mrs. Heckler testified yesterday before the Natcher Subcommittee and she agreed to present to the Committee a formal request for the reprogramming of the original Reagan budget as it pertains to the fiscal 1985 NIH grants. There is no doubt in my mind that the Committee will reject the request for reprogramming, and will see that the full amount appropriated in fiscal 1985 is spent without all of the nonsense about forward funding over a three-year period. Mr. Natcher lectured Mrs. Heckler on the ~~impropriety~~ of the Executive impounding monies without coming to the appropriate House and Senate Appropriations Committee for permission.

All my love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Gorman
Executive Director

Enclosures

MG:par